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MEDIA RELEASE

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FORMER QUEEN CITY MAN SENTENCED FOR ROBBERY SPREE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: U.S. Attorney Tom Colantuono announced today that on Friday, January 3, 2003, a former Manchester man was sentenced to more than nine years in jail for robbing three banks and a fast food restaurant during a month-long, two-state crime spree in 2001. United States District Court Judge Paul J. Barbadoro sentenced **KIRK J. STUTES** to nine years and four months of incarceration to run concurrent with sentences he already is serving in Vermont pursuant to other charges filed there. Judge Barbadoro also ordered Stutes to serve three years of supervised release after completing his term of incarceration and to pay full restitution to his victims.

Stutes previously had pleaded guilty to robbing a **McDonald's restaurant in Manchester, New Hampshire**, on May 26, 2001; a branch of the **First Essex Bank in Concord, New Hampshire**, on June 4, 2001; a branch of **The Howard Bank in St. Johnsbury, Vermont**, on June 8, 2001; and a branch of **Citizens Bank in Manchester, New Hampshire**, on June 14, 2001. Stutes carried a pellet gun during each of the robberies, brandishing it during the McDonald's robbery and firing it to deter pursuers in the Citizen's Bank robbery. Stutes netted a total of approximately \$14,891 from the four robberies.

Stutes is presently incarcerated in a Vermont state prison, where he is serving sentences for robbing McDonald's restaurants in Brattleboro, Vermont, on May 28, 2001, and in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, on May 31, 2001. Stutes, age 40, resided in Manchester, N.H., before he was incarcerated.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "Today's sentencing demonstrates the excellent results that can be achieved when multiple law enforcement jurisdictions work together to investigate and prosecute crimes. No fewer than ten law enforcement offices made substantial contributions to this case. It is because of their good work that the public can rest assured that it will be a long time before Mr. Stutes will be in a position to compromise public safety again."

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in conjunction with the Police Departments of Concord, Manchester and Bristol, New Hampshire and the St. Johnsbury and Brattleboro, Vermont Police Departments. The Hillsborough, New Hampshire County Attorney's Office, the United States Attorney for the District of Vermont, and Caledonia and Windham County State's Attorney Offices of Vermont also provided valuable assistance. The prosecution was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Morse.